

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 /016 W

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R 281726Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1908

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1142

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, AO, MZ

SUBJ: CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR SHIP VISITS, AIRPLANE OVERFLIGHTS

1. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, EMBASSY LISBON HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING APPROPRIATE GOP AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR VISITS OF US SHIPS AND AIRPLANE OVERFLIGHTS OF PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. OUR FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL END ONCE ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE GAIN INDEPENDENCE. THE QUESTION IS, IN VIEW OF TRANSITION GOVERNMENTS' PARTICIPATION IN CLEARANCE PROCESS, WHAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO SPEED UP CLEARANCE PROCESS IN INTERIM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE ARRIVES?

2. WE WISH TO AVOID REPEATING EXPERIENCE OF PROPOSED FEB 8-9 VISIT TO LOURENCO MARQUES OF DESTROYERS USS JOSEPH HEWES AND USS TRIPPE. IN THAT INSTANCE PERMISSION WAS ULTIMATELY RECEIVED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUT TOO LATE TO REPEAT FORMAL CLEARANCE PROCESS WITH LISBON. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND LISBON BE ELIMINATED FROM CLEARANCE RPOCESS, ROUTING CLEARANCE REQUESTS DIRECT FROM DOD TO AMCONSULS LUANDA AND LOURENCO MARQUES, TO BE TAKEN UP BY THOSE POSTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. (FOR THE MOMENT, EMBASSY LISBON WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REQUESTS INVOLVING CAPE VERDE.)

3. AS WE HAVE NOT YET RAISED MATTER WITH GOP, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT POSITION PORTUGUESE WILL TAKE. FROM OUR PAST DISCUSSIONS WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY GOP WILL WANT TO GET OUT OF CLEARANCE PROCESS, BUT CONSIDERATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY MAY LEAD GOP TO
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INSIST ON SOME RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY IN MATTER.

4. WE ASSUME LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN LUANDA AND LOURENCO MARQUES
WILL BE FAVORABLE TO IDEA. REQUEST ADDRESSEE POSTS SHARE VIEWS
WITH US.
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